



PATENT  
17207-00012

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lineberry et al.	:	
	:	Art Unit: 2163
Serial No.: 09/855,091	:	
	:	Examiner:
Filed: May 14, 2001	:	
	:	
For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR	:	
PERFORMING ACQUISITION	:	
INTEGRATION	:	

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

In response to the Notice of Omitted Item(s) in a Nonprovisional Application dated November 23, 2001, please amend the specification as indicated prior to examination of the case on the merits.

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 7 please replace paragraph [0041] with the following paragraph:

[0041] Figures 20 through 80 are spreadsheets listing pre-defined integration areas and a list of pre-defined integration events for each integration area.

On page 9 please replace paragraph [0046] with the following paragraph:

[0046] Set forth below are details regarding example hardware architectures (Figures 2 and 3), and example computer generated screen shots displayed by the system to facilitate acquisition integration (Figures 4 through 19). In addition, a list of pre-defined integration areas and a list of pre-defined integration events are set forth in Figures 20 through 80. Using the pre-defined integration areas and integration events, a user, as explained below, is able to construct a

customized integration plan using those areas and events the user, for example an integration manager for an upcoming acquisition integration, sees as being pertinent to their acquisition integration. Of course, best practices implemented by an acquiring company may cause certain integration areas and integration events to be required in every acquisition integration project plan. Further, a user is able to add user-defined integration areas and events to their integration, based upon specific integration needs, which, in the future, may be added to the pre-defined integration areas and integration events by a system administrator. The user is able to store their "custom" integration plan for access and use by their integration team as a spreadsheet or as a web page. The user and the integration team is thus provided with an acquisition integration plan, which is based upon pre-defined integration areas and events, which provides rigor and consistency to the acquisition integration process, and user-defined integration areas and events, which provides flexibility to the integration process. Again, although specific embodiments of methods and systems for integrating acquisitions are described herein, the methods and systems are not limited to such specific embodiments.

Beginning on page 16 and continuing on to page 17 please replace paragraph [0076] with the following paragraph:

[0076] Figures 20 through 80 contain an example acquisition integration plan, including pre-defined integration events, for the following pre-defined integration areas: business leader, integration manager, due diligence leader, sales/marketing, E-commerce, customer services, collections, manufacturing, engineering, logistics, EHS, services, risk management, six sigma, information technology, communication, culture, human resources (HR) strategy, HR labor relations, HR employee benefits, HR compensation, HR employment practices, payroll benefits, expatriate administration, travel and living expenses, legal, intellectual property, compliance, treasury, Euro program, financial planning, closing reporting, tax integration, controllership and insurance.

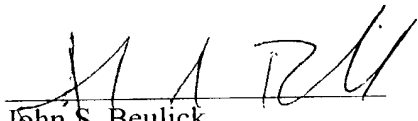
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REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct the number of figures filed with the application. A Submission of Marked Up Paragraphs is submitted herewith. Part 2 of the Notice is also submitted herewith.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited. If any fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 01-2384.

Respectfully Submitted,



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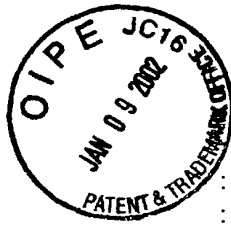
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Examiner:

**SUBMISSION OF MARKED UP PARAGRAPHS**Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Submitted herewith are marked up paragraphs in accordance with 37 C.F.R.  
1.121(b)(1)(iii).

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 7 please replace paragraph [0041] with the following paragraph:

Figures 20 through [81]~~80~~ are spreadsheets listing pre-defined integration areas and a list of pre-defined integration events for each integration area.

On page 9 please replace paragraph [0046] with the following paragraph:

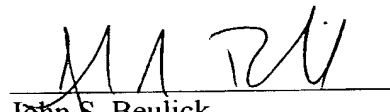
Set forth below are details regarding example hardware architectures (Figures 2 and 3), and example computer generated screen shots displayed by the system to facilitate acquisition integration (Figures 4 through 19). In addition, a list of pre-defined integration areas and a list of pre-defined integration events are set forth in Figures 20 through [81]~~80~~. Using the pre-defined integration areas and integration events, a user, as explained below, is able to construct a customized integration plan using those areas and events the user, for example an integration manager for an upcoming acquisition integration, sees as being pertinent to their acquisition integration. Of course, best practices implemented by an acquiring company may cause certain integration areas and integration events to be required in every acquisition integration project

plan. Further, a user is able to add user-defined integration areas and events to their integration, based upon specific integration needs, which, in the future, may be added to the pre-defined integration areas and integration events by a system administrator. The user is able to store their "custom" integration plan for access and use by their integration team as a spreadsheet or as a web page. The user and the integration team is thus provided with an acquisition integration plan, which is based upon pre-defined integration areas and events, which provides rigor and consistency to the acquisition integration process, and user-defined integration areas and events, which provides flexibility to the integration process. Again, although specific embodiments of methods and systems for integrating acquisitions are described herein, the methods and systems are not limited to such specific embodiments.

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Respectfully Submitted,

  
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